Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society, Seattle, WA

March, 2003

Historic Resource Survey Underway on Queen Anne

Since early January a bold program to map all of Queen Anne's historic resources has been underway. Led by the Queen Anne Historical Society, and funded by a Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods grant, teams of volunteers have spread across the community to survey every structure on Queen Anne.

The detailed coordination is being performed by local historian Mimi Sheridan. There are 26 teams at work surveying about 40 areas, each with about 150-200 buildings. Photos and data are recorded for those houses and buildings that remain in essentially the same form as when they were built. All buildings built before 1960, whether grand or humble, are considered.

After the initial survey, a subset of

(Continued on page 2)

The final home and medical office of Dr. Henry Smith, settler of Smith Cove and beloved figure in early Seattle. Located at 3042 15th Ave. W., this house is one of the many surveyed during the Historic Resource Survey now underway.
Survey photo by John Hennes.

Railroad Disaster at Wellington!
You are There

Ninety-three years ago, March 10, 1910, a deadly avalanche wiped out two trains and 96 people in the Wellington Disaster. This tragic and massive railroad accident on the Great Northern line at Stevens Pass will be explored in this month's public meeting.

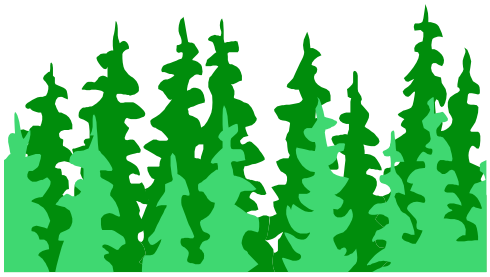
Photos from the QAHS files and a short video of the scene will set the framework for what is the greatest railroad disaster in the Great Northern's history and the largest loss of life from a natural disaster in Washington State history. Local Magnolia author, **Cameron Dokey**, will join us to talk about her recent teen-romance novel, set during this event. She will describe her research and bring her new book, *Washington Avalanche*, to sell and autograph.

If available, Ruth Ittner will join us to update the status of the Iron Goat Trail development, which follows the former railroad bed of the Great Northern through the Wellington area, now known as Tye.

Join your neighbors at our next public meeting

Wednesday, Mar. 19th, 7:30 pm
McClure Middle School Library
First Ave. West and West Crockett St.

The meeting is free and open to the public. It begins at 7:30 pm at McClure Middle School library, 1915 1st Ave. West, on Queen Anne. For more information, contact John Hennes at 206-284-2266.



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The Archives of the Society are located in Bayview Manor, 11 W. Aloha, Seattle, WA 98119

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Newsletter Editor, John Hennes, can be reached via email at: john@qahistory.org

Membership Notice

Our membership year ends each May 31st. **Your mailing label shows the year your current membership expires.** If you are new to the hill and would like to join with others in the task of preserving Queen Anne's story, consider using the coupon on p. 3 to join our society. We welcome your support.

For more information, contact our Membership Chair, Nadine Belcher, at 206-284-8369. ***.....Thanks for being a part of a great organization!***

Calendar of

Wed. Mar. 19, 2003
Program: The Wellington Avalanche of March, 1910. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free. (See story page 1)

Wed. May. 21, 2003
Program: The 150th anniversary of the Territory of Washington. This is the Society's Annual Meeting and elections. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

Sat.-Sun. May 24-25, 2003
Event: Annual King County Heritage Expo as part of Folk Life Festival. South Lake Union. Free.

Sat. June. 28, 2003
Walking Tour: The annual tour of historic Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, 10:00 am. Free.

Wed. Sept. 17, 2003
Program: The story of Will E. Hudson, pioneer NW Pathe newsreel cameraman. McClure Middle School Library, 7:30 pm. Free.

(Survey: Continued from page 1)

about 250 buildings, representing the best examples of different architectural styles or historic usage, will be researched in some depth. The results will be published in a catalogue and on-line.

About one-third of the survey has been completed, reports Mimi. The research phase will not start until late April. Ron Mason, Society Board Member chairing a steering committee for this effort, says the city funding has been approved and is available. Volunteers are still needed to help with the research phase. Training for this will be scheduled later.

If you would like to help, please contact Mimi Sheridan at 206-270-8727 or Ron Mason at 206-283-8630, email <ron@qahistory.org>.

Intrepid surveyors John Hennes (L) and Del Loder check out a house for the survey. Oops! It turns out to be John's house.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Queen Anne Historical Society is to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community and to develop within the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.

Heritage News

Open House at Uptown Neighborhood Center

The new neighborhood center for the Uptown area of Queen Anne hosted an open house on Tues. March 11, about the time this newsletter was printed. Located at 157 Roy St., just east of the Larry's Market block, the center is home for the Queen Anne/ Magnolia Neighborhood Service Center of the City of Seattle, the Uptown Alliance offices, and district offices for State Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles and State Representative Helen Sommers. It also hosts meeting spaces for other community groups.

Our Society has provided four uptown area historic photographs and captions for the walls in the main lobby.

The building is the old Seattle City Light facility at Warren Ave N. and Roy St. Its curious stone and concrete bunker look is deceiving as to the space inside.

Drop by the building some time and look around. John Leonard, the Dept. of Neighborhoods coordinator for the Queen Anne/Magnolia Service Center, will be glad to explain their services and how the building is for the use of the community.

Old John Hay School

Playground Renovation

The playground redevelopment plan for the old John Hay school at 4th Ave. N. and Boston St. is moving along. A ground-breaking for the proposed work is expected by the end of March.

A volunteer group, Friends of Old Hay (FOH), has formed to support the renovation through ideas, financial support and volunteer labor and materials. Many meetings have been held and coordination with the Seattle School District seems to finally be working.

Isabel Egglin, Society Board Member, will soon be appearing before the Landmarks Review Board to speak in support of allowing playground area redesign in the landmarked complex.

For more information, contact Paul Lepley of FOH at 206-284-3994 or at *mlepley@seanet.com*

New Parks on East Queen Anne Need Historical Background

Two new parks: Maclean Park at Taylor Ave N and Newton; and Trolley Hill Park at 5th Ave N and Blaine, need help from the Society in providing some historical background about the area. If you lived in these areas and know something of its past, please contact us at <info@qahistory.org>.

Coe School Officially Opens

The new Coe Elementary School held a grand open house and ribbon cutting on Saturday, February 1, 2003. Although students had started classes there on January 6, the community got its first look on Feb. 1.

Mayor Nickels, School Superintendant Olchefske, Board members, former teachers and students, current teachers and

Former Coe students point out their old school photos to family members.

Principal David Elliott leads past and present teachers and students in the ribbon cutting to open Coe School.

Yes, I want to join the Queen Anne Historical Society in preserving our community's heritage and promoting the public's understanding of its past.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address_____

City _____, State _____ Zip_____

E-mail _____

Member Category: (check one)

___ Individual $15 ___ Patron $50 - $199
___ Family $20 ___ Benefactor $200 & up
___ Student/Senior $8 ___ Contribution only, $_____

___ I would like to become active in the Queen Anne Historical Society.

The QAHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by Federal law.

Return with payment to: Queen Anne Historical Society, PO Box 19432, Seattle, WA 98109-1432

Yes, I want to order the Society's book, *Queen Anne—Community on the Hill*. I understand that shipping costs will be added.

Prices are:
Soft cover: $25 ($20 for paid members)
Hard cover: $45 ($40 for paid members)

Please send me the following
Soft cover qty:_____. Total cost: $_____

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$_____

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***Coming up*: Share the terror and triumphs of the infamous Wellington Avalanche at the**

The Society wants to thank all those community volunteers who are contributing so much to Queen Anne by their participation in the Historic Resource Survey now in work.

Notes from The Archives
by Kim Turner

Your correspondent just had the loveliest of weekends. On Saturday I rode with a friend from work to book stores in Bellingham, Tacoma and finally Bremerton, where we caught the 10 p.m. ferry back to Seattle, completing the Puget Sound country tour.

I remember hundreds of trips on the ferries across the Sound to Bremerton, Vashon, Bainbridge and Kingston. The famous silver slug, the Kalakala, was one of my personal favorites. "She always rattled before she struck," was a favorite epithet used to remind passengers that she would occasionally take out a dock, or at least the pilings. The San Mateo. one of the oldest ferries I rode, had wooden benches to sit on and was dreadfully uncomfortable.

Sunday I was up early (after the long Saturday jaunt) and made my way to the east side of Queen Anne Hill where Marina King and I finished our unit in the Historical Resource Survey (see story on p. 1). We finished by taking pictures from the car, as the rain began to come down in earnest. This survey has been for me a reawakening of memories of walks around the Hill over the years. Trails beside apartments took us from the lower east side up to the high school . At night in the late 1940s and throughout the 1950s we could watch the small planes winging their way north to Alaska. The Hill has a look at night that cheers the heart, whether you look at it from a distance, or are climbing up its steep streets. It is no wonder that Seattleites of a century ago were so proud of their electric lighting. The houses glow, radiate warmth and the presence of families. This is still true.

I have learned more about the neighborhoods I have lived in during the survey than I ever expected. Not only has this project given me a chance to acknowledge the existence of homes which have changed only imperceptibly since they were built, but it has given me an appreciation and an awareness of architecture which I always needed but never thought I had the time to learn. When the project is completed, we will not only have knowledge of where the houses are located which have the least changes to them, but also a large number of houses, as well as other structures, for which we had but little awareness in the past.

We tend to take things as permanent, and forget that all structures are captive to the whims of their respective owners. I have seen many streets where I remember single-family homes, which now sport nothing but apartments or condominiums. Is it a bad thing? Probably not, if we wish for Seattle to keep growing. It does, however, remind us that a project like this should be done at least once every few years, in order to chronicle the changes. That is one of our most significant areas of stewardship, as an active historical society. Remember, if you see flyers for homes for sale on the hill, bring them to our meetings. They give us increasing data about the age and interiors of the houses, data for which we do not have regular access. Hope the year is going well for each of you.

Kim R. Turner, Archivist

Kim Turner, Archivist, 2002-03

Interested in becoming more involved with the Queen Anne Historical Society? Join the Board of Trustees! Call John Hennes at (206) 284-2266 for more details about how you can share in making and keeping Queen Anne's history.